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1 Hundreds chant 'Stop the Burn' at M6 rally, New Star, 3/3/2015

<http://www.thenewsstar.com/story/news/local/2015/03/03/hundreds-chant-stop-burn-rally/24354405/>

Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, who now heads a coalition of citizens focused on environmental action in Louisiana known as the Green Army, energized the crowd of more than 400 people filling the Minden Civic Center. Not only did Honoré take on the explosive situation at Camp Minden, he ran down other pollution problems plaguing the state.

2 - Special issue of journal looks at fracking's effects on people, animals, Center for Public Integrity, 3/4/2015

http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/03/03/16831/special-issue-journal-looks-frackings-effects-people-animals?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=watchdog&utm_medium=publici-email&goal=0_ffd1d0160d-89278964ea-100287913&mc_cid=89278964ea&mc_eid=b43bbe1a9f

Today, a scientific journal devotes an entire issue to a gloomier topic: the public health impacts of all that fracking. It's a subject the Center for Public Integrity and InsideClimate News explored in great detail in their joint 2014 project, "Big Oil, Bad Air." The 20-month investigation, which included a 15-minute online documentary by The Weather Channel, described toxic air emissions, health problems and lax regulation in areas of heavy drilling, notably the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas.

3 - State Geological Survey Stayed Silent After Linking Oklahoma Quakes to Oil Industry, NPR, 3/3/2015

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/03/03/state-geological-survey-stayed-silent-after-linking-oklahoma-quakes-to-oil-industry/>

Despite long-held suspicions that the state's earthquake surge was linked to oil and gas activity, the Oklahoma Geological Survey stayed silent amid pressure from oil company executives, EnergyWire reports. For this and other interviews, State Seismologist Austin Holland acknowledges "intense personal interest" from energy company executives, but told reporter Mike Soraghan it never affected his scientific findings:

4 - Hundreds chant 'Stop the Burn' at M6 rally, Shreveport Times, 3/3/2015

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/03/02/why-state-and-federal-agencies-record-different-oklahoma-earthquake-numbers/>

Earthquake magnitude estimations often vary wildly between the Oklahoma Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey. The OGS usually reports smaller earthquakes than its federal counterpart. Since 2010, the OGS reported smaller numbers than the USGS "more than half of the time for earthquakes of magnitude 3.8 and higher," the Tulsa World's Ziva Branstetter and Curtis Killman report.

5 - Okla.'s 2014 quake count rises after federal analysis, EE News, 3/4/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2015/03/04/stories/1060014402>

Updates by the U.S. Geological Survey have raised Oklahoma's earthquake count for last year by more than 20. The latest USGS data show there were 585 earthquakes of magnitude 3 or greater in 2014. In early January, the data showed 564.

6 - Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day is April 18 in River Parishes, Times Picayune, 3/3/2015

http://blog.nola.com/river/2015/03/household_hazardous_materials_2.html#incart_river

For the 17th year, industries in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. James parishes will host the annual Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The collection sites are, in St. Charles, the

Jerusalem Shriners Hall parking lot, 1940 Ormond Boulevard in Destrehan; and in St. John, the New Wine Ministries parking lot, 1921 Airline Highway, in LaPlace.

7 - Unanswered questions from Tulane Primate Center investigation cause for concern, USA Today reports, Times Picayune, 3/3/2015

http://www.nola.com/health/index.ssf/2015/03/unanswered_questions_from_tula.html#incart_river

The fact that the intense investigation into the release of a foreign, often deadly type of bacteria at the Tulane National Primate Research Center near Covington has provided few answers is cause for concern, according to USA Today. The story says the cause of the release and the extent of the contamination remain unknown despite weeks of investigation by multiple federal and state agencies and some officials are pressing behind the scenes for more answers.

8 - Impact of Next-Generation Compliance On Settlement Terms Unclear, EPA Says, BNA, 3/3/2015

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=64204508&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0g3a9x0k2&split=0

The Environmental Protection Agency is looking to require next-generation compliance such as continuous monitoring and electronic reporting in its settlements, although it remains unclear how these requirements might fit into the overall settlement terms, a regulator told an audience of environmental lawyers March 3.

9 - Groups call for Oklahoma attorney general to be more involved in \$1.1 billion Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. case, Oklahoman, 3/2/2015

<http://newsok.com/groups-call-for-oklahoma-attorney-general-to-be-more-involved-in-1.1-billion-oklahoma-gas-and-electric-co.-case/article/5397908>

About one-third of the state's electricity consumers face average bill increases of more than 15 percent by 2019 under a \$1.1 billion request to regulators from Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. The utility will begin presenting its case Tuesday at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to recover costs for environmental compliance and for replacement of an aging natural gas plant in Oklahoma City.

10 - More Data Needed to Assess Effects Of Fracking on Water Quality, USGS Finds, BNA, 3/3/2015

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=64204515&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0g3a9x7c8&split=0

There are not enough data available to assess potential risks to water quality associated with hydraulic fracturing, according to a U.S. Geological Survey study. Additional data in electronic formats on water acquisition, usage, treatment and disposal or recycling associated with unconventional oil and gas well development and completion are needed, the USGS said March 3.

11 - "Bring your torches. Bring your pitch forks," Grayson County Commissioners Urge Residents to Oppose Concrete Plant, K TEN, 3/3/2015

http://www.tulsaworld.com/earthquakes/uk-s-telegraph-visiting-oklahoma-first-came-the-frackers-then/article_d095a502-13d2-5679-8a06-87024af652e2.html

New business is usually a good thing, but county commissioners are fighting hard to keep a concrete plant from moving in. Commissioners say the problem isn't what. It's where. With a proposed concrete plant trying to build along a lucrative highway near Gunter. Wide, open spaces line highway 289 south of Gunter, but a parcel of land south of Wallace road that's become the center of an argument of what could be.

12 - Hundreds rally against Camp Minden open burn, KSLA, 3/4/2015

<http://www.ksla.com/story/28252957/several-rally-against-camp-minden-open-burn>

Two groups opposed to the open burn of M6 propellant hosted a rally Tuesday evening to support the safe disposal of the propellant. The Louisiana Progress Action and Concerned Citizens along with the Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden Open Burn organized the community rally to support the dialogue committee to find the safest method of disposal.

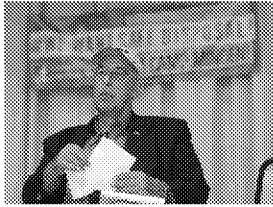
13- Fort Smith Begins Process To Raise Sewer Rates, SW Times, 3/4/2015

<http://swtimes.com/news/fort-smith-begins-process-raise-sewer-rates>

Oklahoma's state scientists have suspected for years that oil and gas operations in the state were causing a swarm of earthquakes, but in public they rejected such a connection. When the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) did cautiously agree with other scientists about such a link, emails obtained by EnergyWire show the state seismologist was called into meetings with his boss, University of Oklahoma President David Boren, and oil executives "concerned" about the acknowledgement.

Hundreds chant 'Stop the Burn' at M6 rally

Vickie Welborn, vwelborn@shreveporttimes.com 10:15 p.m. CST March 3, 2015



(Photo: Douglas Collier/The Times)

"We will stop the burn at Camp Minden" asserted a retired Army general who came to Minden Tuesday to lend his help in fighting an open tray burn of more than 15 million pounds of M6 propellant at the state-owned facility.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, who now heads a coalition of citizens focused on environmental action in Louisiana known as the Green Army, energized the crowd of more than 400 people filling the Minden Civic Center. Not only did Honoré take on the explosive situation at Camp Minden, he ran down other pollution problems plaguing the state.

An open burn of M6 would not be allowed in California. But it is in Louisiana because "we have lax laws," Honoré said.

Throughout a PowerPoint presentation, Honoré roamed before the audience telling how Louisiana gets dumped on by companies that leave their environmental waste for the state's residents to deal with.

"We are treated by the government as a toxic dump site for the rest of America," he said.

He pulled the crowd into his talk by asking them to repeat "stop the burn" every time he mentioned Camp Minden. And they did.

Turnout for the rally, where men, women and children filled all chairs, sat on the floor and leaned against the wall, dwarfed two EPA-led public meetings in November and December which is when local citizens first learned the EPA was forging ahead with an open burn without getting input from them.

Since December, citizens, public officials, community leaders and scientists have banded together in a united and loud voice opposing the EPA's choice. In early January, the EPA paused and agreed to a recommendation of the concerned citizens group to create a dialogue committee that for the past few weeks have been meeting weekly studying alternate disposal methods.

The committee is still on target to have a recommended process by next week. The final decision then still falls to the EPA, as the federal regulatory agency.

Honoré said the Green Army is taking legislation to lawmakers this year to give local control to communities, meaning the local leaders could say no to things they don't want, whether it be an oil and gas drilling rig or open burn of explosives.

He also will ask state officials for money to conduct a health registry in the Webster Parish area.

"You are volunteers (in the Green Army). ... Stand up and be counted," Honoré said to the cheers of the audience.

Honoré wasn't the only rally speaker.

State Rep. Gene Reynolds received a standing ovation for taking the lead among area elected officials in the anti-open burn process, but he turned the compliment back to the public, saying it was their concern and willingness to get busy, do research and get organized that halted the EPA's plan for an open burn.

The EPA wanted to treat "us like a bunch of bumpkins and tell us how it's going to be," he said. But the citizens who rose in opposition initially through a social media campaign are a "prime example of how government should work; how people should be engaged. We have the say-so in this; the main say-so. This is America. This is how it's supposed to be."

Brian Salvatore, chemistry professor at LSUS, received extended applause when he said while there is still some concern about the final outcome he is certain there will be no open burn. He used a humorous allegory of an airplane trip to explain the process to date.

The EPA's decision to decide on an open tray burn was the "most insensitive and most unprofessional idea I've ever seen coming out of the EPA. And I've worked with them for decades," said Robert Flournoy, a toxicologist from Ruston.

The open tray burn is a complete reversal of EPA's mission statement to protect the environment, he said, adding an open burn compounds toxins, which are cancer-causing and lead to a host of other ill health effects.

"I will not stand by and let our citizens be treated like lab mice. If (the EPA) want to burn the explosives ... let them soak it in water, send it by rail to Dallas and let it be burned there. When I suggested that (in January) they were quiet as a mouse," Flournoy said. "When this is over, we must keep the pressure on the elected officials to ban open burning for the safety of our environment," Flournoy said as the crowd rose to its feet.

Retired Col. Samuel Mims said, "There are some things you have to decide just are not going to happen."

The EPA showed it had no respect for local citizens by choosing the open burn, Mims said. Drawing on his experience with military munitions, he said, "if you live within 100 miles of this and think it won't affect you you are sadly mistaken. ... Wherever the wind blows that's where it's going."

"When we go to these meetings we take the position you are with us. We're speaking for you," said Mims, who kept the crowd engaged by asking them to periodically repeat, "There will be no open burn."

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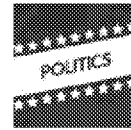


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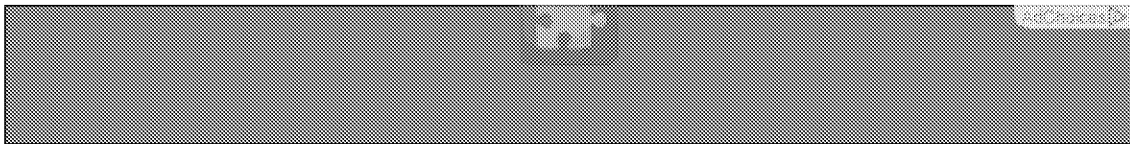


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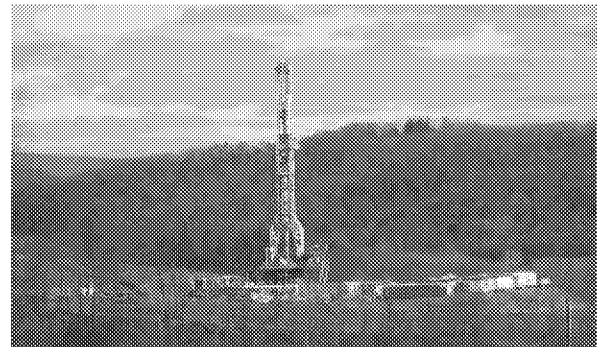
By Jim Morris   email 3 hours, 18 minutes ago Updated: 3 hours, 12 minutes ago

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On February 18, the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry group, announced that natural gas production from hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania had broken another record, exceeding 4 trillion cubic feet in 2014. “That number – nearly 1 trillion cubic feet more than 2013 – represents more than a quarter of the nation’s total natural gas production,” the coalition said, adding that more than 243,000 Pennsylvanians were “working across the industry.”

Today, a scientific journal devotes an entire issue to a gloomier topic: the public health impacts of all that fracking. It’s a subject the Center for Public Integrity and InsideClimate News explored in great detail in their joint 2014 project, “Big Oil, Bad Air.” The 20-month investigation, which included a 15-minute online documentary by The Weather Channel, described toxic air emissions, health problems and lax regulation in areas of heavy drilling, notably the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas.



A drilling tower in the Marcellus shale formation seen from Pennsylvania Route 118 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Wikicommons

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The peer-reviewed *Journal of Environmental Science and Health* published eight articles in an issue it calls “Facing the Challenges—Research on Shale Gas Extraction.” Among other things, the researchers found that fracking may be polluting Pennsylvania streams with mercury; that dogs – good “health sentinels” for human effects – have gotten sick near drilling sites; and that “extreme exposures” to volatile organic compounds, such as the carcinogen benzene, can be expected during several stages of gas production and processing.

Big Oil, Bad Air



Fracking the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas.

Stories in this series

The special issue's editor, John Stolz, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, said the papers – outgrowths of a 2013 conference – should trigger additional studies.

Fracking is “not the traditional mom-and-pop drilling” and “could be considered a heavy industrial process,” Stolz said, indicating a need for careful siting of drilling rigs and other polluting facilities near residential areas.

“We’re not against the industry. That’s not the point,” Stolz said. “There are things related to this industry that have to be addressed. Let’s do it soberly and with eyes wide open.”



As drilling ravages Texas' Eagle Ford Shale, residents 'living in a Petri dish'

By Jim Morris, Lisa Song and David Hasemyer
February 18, 2014



Special issue of journal looks at fracking's effects on people, animals

By Jim Morris 12 hours, 6 minutes ago



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Economy, Energy, Natural Resources: Policy to People

State Geological Survey Stayed Silent After Linking Oklahoma Quakes to Oil Industry

MARCH 3, 2015 | 12:10 PM

BY JOE WERTZ



JOE WERTZ / STATEIMPACT OKLAHOMA

Austin Holland with the Oklahoma Geological Survey briefs Corporation Commissioners on new earthquake research.

Despite long-held suspicions that the state's earthquake surge was linked to **oil and gas activity**, the Oklahoma Geological Survey stayed silent amid pressure from oil company executives, **EnergyWire reports**.

For this and **other interviews**, State Seismologist Austin Holland acknowledges "intense personal interest" from energy company executives, but told reporter Mike Soraghan it never affected his scientific findings:

But Holland and OGS have been the voice of skepticism in the scientific community about connections between oil production activities and the hundreds of earthquakes that have shaken the state.

The EnergyWire piece relies heavily on emails — **click here to read a .pdf** — obtained through the state Open Records Act, which highlight tensions with the oil industry, politicians and university donors, and reveal inconsistencies in OGS's private discussions and public messaging.

Some of the highlights — paraphrased and bulleted by me, unless quoted directly:

- **Earthquake Activity Near Jones, Okla.**

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State Geological Survey Stayed Silent After Linking Oklahoma Quakes to Oil Industry

In an email, Holland told the USGS that since 2010 the OGS had suspected an earthquake swarm near Jones was likely linked to an oil and gas operation known as the "Hunton dewatering." Publicly, however, Holland downplayed the connection, Sorgahan reports:

In a television interview at the time, he pointed toward natural causes. In a scientific posting, he pointed at changing water levels at a nearby lake.

That concerned [USGS' Bill] Leith, who runs the earthquake hazards program at USGS. He wrote to Holland saying the lake level theory was "unlikely" and possibly unhelpful.

Asked by EnergyWire why he hadn't publicly aired suspicions that Jones swarm was caused by oil production activities, Holland replied, "I guess you should go back and read my paper." He sent a citation to a paper he published in 2013, which does not make a link between the Jones swarm earthquakes and the Hunton dewatering.

- **Meeting With the Corporation Commission and Oil Executives**

In October 2013, OGS joined the U.S. Geological Survey in issuing a **statement** about Oklahoma's growing earthquake risk and possible links to oil and gas industry disposal wells. A week later, Holland was "summoned" to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for a meeting with Jack Stark — then a senior vice president of exploration, now president and chief operating officer at Continental Resources — and then-Commissioner Patrice Douglas, Sorgahan reports:

Douglas and the Continental executive were "concerned" about the joint statement with USGS and a story about it by EnergyWire, Holland recounted later in an email.

At the time, Douglas was about to run for Congress. She got more campaign money from Continental executives in 2014 than anyone except Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) and the Republican National Committee, according to OpenSecrets.org. The \$14,775 she received from Continental includes \$6,575 from Hamm, who did not contribute to her Republican primary opponent, Steve Russell. Russell beat Douglas in the primary and is now a congressman.

In the meeting, Douglas said she "wants to, of course, protect the safety of Oklahomans, but also balance that with industry in the state," according to Holland's email.

- **Meeting with OU President David Boren and Oil Executives**

After the OGS "cautiously" agreed with scientists about links between disposal wells and earthquakes, Holland in November 2013 was called into a meeting with University of Oklahoma President David Boren and oil executives, including Continental Resources Chairman Harold Hamm, "a leading donor to the university." Boren also serves on Continental's board of directors, where, in 2013, "he received \$272,700 in cash and stock for his service," Sorgahan reports:

A meeting with such powerful figures in the state would be intimidating for a state employee such as Holland, said state Rep. Jason Murphey of Guthrie.

"Wow. That's a lot of pressure," said Murphey, a Republican whose district has been rattled by numerous quakes. "That just sends chills up your spine if you're from Oklahoma."

- **OGS' Position on Earthquakes Has Drawn Internal 'Derision'**

In April 2013, another OGS scientist, petroleum geologist Richard Andrews, said in a note to a family member on his agency email account that OGS shouldn't be telling the public that the earthquakes are naturally occurring.

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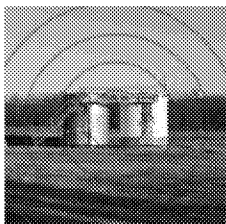
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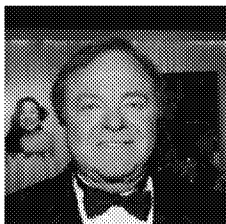
"Myself and a few other geologists that know of the Hunton dewatering oil operations in the affected areas and subsequent re-injection into the Arbuckle [are] the culprit," wrote Andrews, who is now the interim director of OGS. "I am dismayed at our seismic people about this issue and believe they couldn't track a bunny through fresh snow!"

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**Jake** • an hour ago

Great reporting!

I can't say I'm surprised. The oil industry has too much political sway in our state gov't. These scientists are out on an island to stand up for the truth while the state leadership is paying too much attention to the special interests.

Approving that unnecessary tax cut on production like they did last year said it all.

1   • Reply • Share ▾**Rebecca Bean** • 4 hours ago

Really disturbing. Thank you for covering this important topic.

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Excellent investigative reporting. Very concerning however. We depend on scientists for the truth. I am dismayed that Boren could be selling out. I have an open mind so keep the facts coming.

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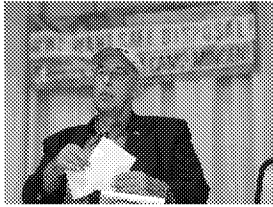
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Hundreds chant 'Stop the Burn' at M6 rally

Vickie Welborn, 10:23 p.m. CST March 3, 2015



(Photo: Douglas Collier/The Times)

"We will stop the burn at Camp Minden" asserted a retired Army general who came to Minden Tuesday to lend his help in fighting an open tray burn of more than 15 million pounds of M6 propellant at the state-owned facility.

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Since December, citizens, public officials, community leaders and scientists have banded together in a united and loud voice opposing the EPA's choice. In early January, the EPA paused and agreed to a recommendation of the concerned citizens group to create a dialogue committee that for the past few weeks have been meeting weekly studying alternate disposal methods.



Hundreds demand a new solution for the safe disposal of 15 million pounds of M6 propellant currently stored at Camp Minden.

The committee is still on target to have a recommended process by next week. The final decision then still falls to the EPA, as the federal regulatory agency.

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The EPA wanted to treat "us like a bunch of bumpkins and tell us how it's going to be," he said. But the social media campaign are a "prime example of how government should work; how people should be able to say-so. This is America. This is how it's supposed to be."

Brian Salvatore, chemistry professor at LSUS, received extended applause when he said while there may be certain there will be no open burn. He used a humorous allegory of an airplane trip to explain the problem.

The EPA's decision to decide on an open tray burn was the "most insensitive and most unprofessional I've worked with them for decades," said Robert Flournoy, a toxicologist from Ruston.

The open tray burn is a complete reversal of EPA's mission statement to protect the environment, health, and safety, which are cancer-causing and lead to a host of other ill health effects.

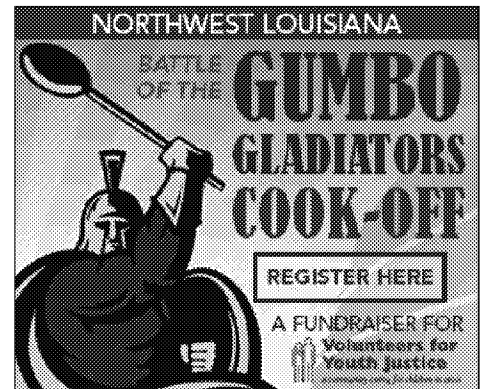
"I will not stand by and let our citizens be treated like lab mice. If (the EPA) want to burn the explosive, let it be burned in Dallas and let it be burned there. When I suggested that (in January) they were quiet as a mouse," said Flournoy, "the pressure on the elected officials to ban open burning for the safety of our environment," Flournoy said.

Retired Col. Samuel Mims said, "There are some things you have to decide just are not going to happen."

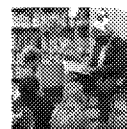
The EPA showed it had no respect for local citizens by choosing the open burn, Mims said. Drawing on his experience, "if you live within 100 miles of this and think it won't affect you you are sadly mistaken. ... Wherever you live, it will affect you."

"When we go to these meetings we take the position you are with us. We're speaking for you," said Mims, who kept the crowd engaged by asking them to periodically repeat, "There will be no open burn."

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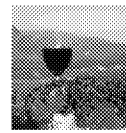


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March 3, 2015, 5:53 p.m.



Glenn Ford: 'I'm trying to make every day count'

[\(/story/news/local/2015/02/28/glenn-](/story/news/local/2015/02/28/glenn-ford-trying-make-every-day-count/24185927/)

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Feb. 28, 2015, 4:16 p.m.

11. EARTHQUAKES:

Okla.'s 2014 quake count rises after federal analysis

Mike Soraghan, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Updates by the U.S. Geological Survey have raised Oklahoma's earthquake count for last year by more than 20.

The latest USGS data show there were 585 earthquakes of magnitude 3 or greater in 2014. In early January, the data showed 564. USGS officials said the agency's National Earthquake Information Center analyzed and updated all 2014 seismic events. Officials say there is a lag of four to six weeks as they do the analysis.

The rate of earthquakes appears to be increasing. The 585 earthquakes in Oklahoma in 2014 represented an average of 1.6 per day. So far this year, there have been 140, for an average of 2.26 per day.

In addition, *EnergyWire* is clarifying its totals for 2014 earthquakes in California. The earthquake count in a Jan. 5 story included quakes offshore in the Pacific Ocean in saying that Oklahoma had twice as many earthquakes as California (*EnergyWire*, Jan. 5). Counting only onshore earthquakes, Oklahoma had more than three times the number of earthquakes (magnitude 3 or greater) than California.

California is twice the size of Oklahoma.

Magnitude 3 is the strength at which all earthquakes in the United States can be accurately detected and recorded.

Federal and academic scientists have attributed the surge in earthquakes to deep injection into disposal wells of waste fluid from oil and gas production. The Oklahoma Geological Survey has been more reluctant to confirm such a connection publicly.

Emails obtained by *EnergyWire* indicate that Oklahoma's state scientists have suspected for years that oil and gas operations in the state were causing a swarm of earthquakes, but in public they rejected such a connection (*EnergyWire*, March 3). The emails indicate that when the state seismologist publicly acknowledged such a link, he was summoned to meetings with state and industry leaders "concerned" by the acknowledgement.

Twitter: @MikeSoraghan | Email: msoraghan@eenews.net

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10. OIL:

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Okla.'s 2014 quake count rises after federal analysis

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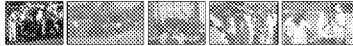
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Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day is April 18 in River Parishes

(http://www.nola.com)



- / 5

Print (<http://blog.nola.com/river/print.html>)
entry: http://blog.nola.com/river/2015/03/household_hazardous_materials_2.html
(<http://connect.nola.com/user/nolacomunitysubmission/index.html>) by NOIA Community Submission (<http://connect.nola.com/user/nolacomunitysubmission/pasta.html>)
on March 03, 2015 at 8:53 AM, updated March 03, 2015 at 8:54 AM

For the 17th year, industries in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. James parishes will host the annual **Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day** (<http://www.bhmed.com>) April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The collection sites are, in St. Charles, the Jerusalem Shrimers Hall parking lot, 1940 Ormond Boulevard in Destrehan; and in St. John, the New Wine Ministries parking lot, 1921 Airline Highway, in LaPlace.

The goal of this event is to provide resident households an opportunity to properly dispose or recycle materials that are inappropriate for curbside pickup.

Event chairs Lynette Currier of OxyChem and Jay Lambremont of Marathon Petroleum Co. are encouraging residents to participate by cleaning out hazardous materials from utility rooms and sheds to properly dispose of these wastes on April 18.

Used electronics including televisions, computer monitors and radios also will be accepted. "Although other recycling opportunities are available in our communities, we want to give residents an opportunity to properly dispose of these items," Currier said.

Two new aspects have been added this year. Keep Louisiana Beautiful will be hand at the LaPlace site to share useful information. A handout also will be provided to those interested regarding other recycling opportunities throughout the year in the River Parishes.

Also, with approval from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, this event is financially sponsored and staffed by volunteers of the following companies as a community service: Air Liquide, Air Products (in all parishes), Arco/Mittal, Bunge, Cornerstone Chemical Company, Dow, DuPont (in St. John and St. James parishes), Entergy, Evonik Industries, Galata Chemicals, Hexion, Marathon Petroleum Company, Monsanto, Nalco - an Ecobal Company, Noranda, Norco Manufacturing Complex, Nucor, OxyChem, Plains Marketing, Praxair, Shell Pipeline LP, Union Pacific Railroad and Valero.

Household Materials that will be accepted include oil-based paint, latex paint, solvents, tires (limit five per vehicle and one delivery only), automotive and other rechargeable batteries, household cleaning products, acids/bases, used oil, antifreeze, aerosol cans, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, herbicides, scrap metal, major appliances, used computers and electronics.

Items that will not be accepted are explosives, ammunition, infectious medical wastes, unidentified materials, compressed gas cylinders (including propane tanks), radioactive wastes (smoke alarms), asbestos, high school lab wastes or commercial/governmental facility waste, including in-home business waste.

Lambremont said, "We are looking forward to collecting household hazardous

materials from our community again for the 17th consecutive year and will be accepting mercury found in newer light bulbs."

At last year's event, 83 volunteers at two locations collected over 24 tons of potentially harmful materials, which was prepared for recycling, recovery, treatment or disposal 441 resident vehicles visited the two collection sites, Lambremont said.

For information, email otline@bhmed.com (<mailto:otline@bhmed.com>) or visit this [website](http://www.bhmed.com) (<http://www.bhmed.com>).

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(<mailto:otline@bhmed.com>)

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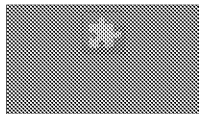
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Everything New Orleans

Unanswered questions from Tulane Primate Center investigation cause for concern, USA Today reports

tulane primate center.jpg

Tulane National Primate Research Center south of Covington. (NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune) (*CHUCK COOK*)

Kim Chatelain, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By **Kim Chatelain, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune**

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on March 03, 2015 at 5:11 PM, updated March 03, 2015 at 5:24 PM

The fact that the **intense investigation into the release of a foreign, often deadly type of bacteria at the Tulane National Primate Research Center** near Covington has provided few answers is cause for concern, according to USA Today. The story says the cause of the release and the extent of the contamination remain unknown despite weeks of investigation by multiple federal and state agencies and some officials are pressing behind the scenes for more answers.

The national newspaper story quotes a biosafety expert from Rutgers University saying the fact that investigators have not yet been able to identify how the release occurred is very concerning. The research center's proximity to wetlands, rivers, a school and a large neighborhood are also pointed out in the article.

Various state, local and federal officials announced on Feb. 7 at a hastily called press conference in St. Tammany Parish that a visiting scientist investigating the death of a primate center monkey last year from a bacterium called *Burkholderia pseudomallei* had tested positive for traces of it. She has since recovered.

Click **here** to read the entire USA Today story.

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42 DEN A-10**Enforcement****Impact of Next-Generation Compliance
On Settlement Terms Unclear, EPA Says***By Chris Marr*

March 3 — The Environmental Protection Agency is looking to require next-generation compliance such as continuous monitoring and electronic reporting in its settlements, although it remains unclear how these requirements might fit into the overall settlement terms, a regulator told an audience of environmental lawyers March 3.

The Environmental Protection Agency sees advanced monitoring technology, electronic reporting and increased transparency such as public disclosure of monitoring data as being key factors in the agency's move toward next-generation compliance efforts, said Mary J. Wilkes, regional counsel and director for the EPA's Office of Environmental Accountability in Region 4. She was speaking in Atlanta to the American Bar Association's seminar on Key Environmental Issues in EPA Region 4.

Whether such requirements might be counted as supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) isn't clear, Wilkes said. The EPA sometimes allows violators to undertake SEPs as part of their settlements to partially reduce the financial penalties they are required to pay.

Wilkes said it's possible but not certain yet that advanced monitoring, e-reporting, third-party auditing and publishing of data might be seen as natural compliance steps to prevent the violator from repeating previous violations, rather than SEPs that would offset the potential financial penalties.

"It's not yet determined how this will all play out," Wilkes said at the seminar, but she said EPA is already incorporating next-generation compliance concepts into settlements.

The enforcement approach follows the guidance of an EPA memo in January, in which the agency's top enforcement official, Cynthia Giles, instructed enforcement teams to consider the next-generation concepts and incorporate them into settlements wherever appropriate (14 DEN A-8, 1/22/15).

Tools Bring Benefits, Challenges

As more regulated entities conduct continuous monitoring and post the data to websites, regulators might face challenges in focusing on the agency's highest priorities without getting too distracted by relatively minor spikes in emissions, said Bob Martineau, commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

In some cases, a state agency or the EPA might get overloaded with phone calls from the public complaining about problems spotted in the data, whereas the public might lack the perspective that agencies employ in setting their strategic priorities, Martineau said.

"It is a struggle. There are benefits on one side, and there are challenges in having resources redirected," he said.

At the same time, within the agencies, regulators will face the challenge of deciding when to pursue compliance action under a 24-hour or some other averaging period, when factoring in continuous monitoring that might pick up short-term spikes that traditionally wouldn't be part of the average, Martineau said.

Need Cited for More Complete Data

Having more complete data that are publicly available could help encourage regulated entities to ensure compliance with emissions and water discharge standards—sometimes voluntarily, sometimes because of pressure from the media and public activism and sometimes because of litigation, said Mindy Goldstein, director of the Turner Environmental Law Clinics at the Emory University School of Law.

"I do think it will be easier for citizens to make better decisions about their litigation strategies," Goldstein said, also speaking at the ABA seminar, while saying it is unclear whether having more data available might increase the amount of citizen lawsuits.

Wilkes also expressed optimism that more advanced monitoring will motivate industries to comply with air and water standards.

"I think those technologies will make them better able to see where there are problems and address them in ways that are economically advantageous and also that make them better corporate citizens," she said.

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Groups call for Oklahoma attorney general to be more involved in \$1.1 billion Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. case

by Paul Monies (/more/Paul Monies) (https://plus.google.com/1009983213235815077) Published: March 2, 2015

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(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://newsok.com/article/5397908&t=Groups call for Oklahoma attorney general to be more involved in \$1.1 billion Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. case)

About one-third of the state's electricity consumers face average bill increases of more than 10 percent in response to a request to regulators from Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.

The utility will begin presenting its case Tuesday at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to recover costs for environmental compliance and for replacement of an aging natural gas plant in Oklahoma City.

But the hearing is scheduled to start with little involvement so far from the office of the Oklahoma attorney general, who represents consumers in utility regulation cases at the commission.

The \$1.1 billion request for recovery is the largest case OG&E has filed before state regulators. If approved, the average residential customer could see monthly bill increases totaling \$16.30 from now until 2019. The increases would be phased in each year as a separate item, called a rider, on customer bills.

Attorney General Scott Pruitt's public utilities unit has not filed any testimony in the case, although it has reserved the right to cross-examine witnesses. The hearings before an administrative law judge could last up to three weeks.

The lack of involvement from the attorney general's office has attracted notice from consumer groups, including Voices Organized In Civic Engagement, or VOICE. The group held a public forum on the case in Oklahoma City last week that featured representatives from OG&E, the Sierra Club, AARP and other parties in the case.

"It's our understanding the attorney general is calling no witnesses and does not seem to be taking a position on the case," said Cynthia Cox, a member of VOICE. "OG&E is asking for a larger burden for individual ratepayers, and we don't think that represents the right path."

OG&E plans to spend more than \$700 million to install scrubbers on coal units at its Sooner plant and convert two coal units at its Muskogee plant to natural gas. Those upgrades and other expenditures are needed to meet emissions requirements under federal regional haze and mercury and air toxins rules.

Apart from environmental compliance, OG&E wants regulators to approve a \$410 million plan to replace its Mustang plant, which has natural gas units dating to the 1950s. The utility wants to install 10 40-megawatt combustion turbine units that will be able to work better in concert with variable wind generation in the region.

Pruitt, OG&E and Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers teamed up to fight a federal plan for regional haze compliance proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. They took their lawsuit all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to review the case last year.

In a statement, Pruitt's spokesman, Aaron Cooper, said EPA's plan for regional haze leaves Oklahoma consumers footing the bill. He said the attorney general's office has been working toward a settlement in the case.

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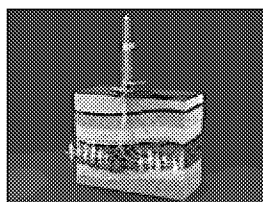
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Hydraulic Fracturing

More Data Needed to Assess Effects Of Fracking on Water Quality, USGS



By Tripp Baltz

March 3 — There are more data needed to assess the effects associated with hydraulic fracturing, the USGS said.

Additional data in electric field monitoring and water recycling associated with hydraulic fracturing are needed, the USGS said.

The study found no widespread and consistent changes in water quality, conductance, in areas where oil and gas wells are produced using hydraulic fracturing, the study said.

"We mined the national water-quality data for hydraulic fracturing in only 16 percent of the watersheds with oil and gas production, and principal author of the study, said in a statement.

Unconventional oil and gas resources include shale gas, tight oil and coalbed methane, which are typically produced using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, sand and chemicals into wellbores.

No Monitoring Program

Because no national water quality monitoring program exists, the USGS study, published Jan. 30 online in American Water Resources Association, said. Existing USGS and Environmental Protection Agency data on trends in oil and gas areas, the survey said.

Comprehensive, published and publicly available data on hydraulic fracturing and potential effects on water quality are needed, the USGS said.

"We found that these data were often not available for the U.S.," the survey said.

To contact the reporter on this story: Tripp Baltz

To contact the editor responsible for this story: [Name]

For More Information

The USGS report is available at <http://www.usgs.gov>

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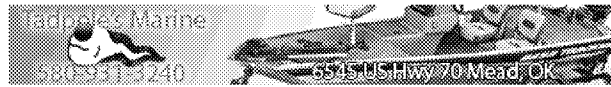
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"Bring your torches. Bring your pitch forks," Grayson County Commissioners Urge Residents to Oppose Concrete Plant

Posted: Mar 03, 2015 6:53 PM CST

GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS -- New business is usually a good thing, but county commissioners are fighting hard to keep a concrete plant from moving in.

Commissioners say the problem isn't what. It's where. With a proposed concrete plant trying to build along a lucrative highway near Gunter.

Wide, open spaces line highway 289 south of Gunter, but a parcel of land south of Wallace road that's become the center of an argument of what could be.

"We have power plants throughout Grayson County," said Grayson County Judge Bill Magers. "We have concrete plants throughout Grayson County. We're very supportive of those types of businesses."

But commissioners say this time is different. Fort Worth based Charley's Concrete applied for an air quality permit to build it's newest location near Gunter.

Spokespeople for the plant say it will add twenty to thirty jobs.

Commissioners approved a resolution opposing the plant during Tuesday's meeting, citing location as a concern in an area that expects to see major development as the Dallas metroplex moves closer.

"Preston Road is a very high end retail development road," Magers said. "It doesn't need a concrete plant sitting on it."

Other commissioners say a study shows the plant would produce particle pollution in the air around Gunter Primary.

"The model that we've done, that we've presented shows the levels are higher than the EPA would even allow at that elementary school," Phyllis James said, Grayson County Commissioner.

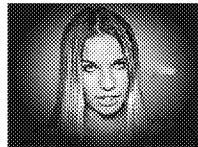
Both sides will present arguments at a public hearing before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality board members, who have the final say on whether an air quality permit is issued. It's at the Gunter Community Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

"We hope to be able to answer some questions and calm community concerns while coming to an agreement on the best fit and location for a long-term relationship," said Charley's Concrete President Brent Pennington.

County Judge Bill Magers has a message of his own for Grayson County citizens.

"We need them to show up," he said. "Bring your torches. Bring your pitch forks. Let these folks know that is the wrong location."

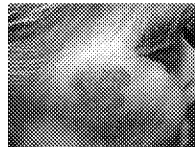
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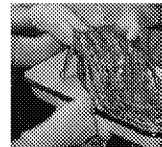
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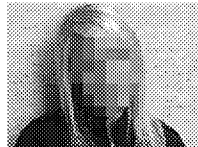
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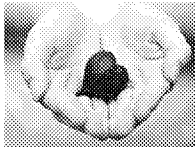
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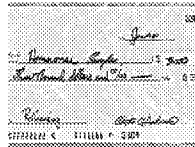
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Hundreds rally against Camp Minden open burn

Posted: Mar 03, 2015 4:01 PM CST
Updated: Mar 04, 2015 12:28 AM

By Victoria Shirley [CONNECT](#)

MINDEN, LA (KSLA) - Two groups opposed to the open burn of M6 propellant hosted a rally Tuesday evening to support the safe disposal of the propellant.

The Louisiana Progress Action and Concerned Citizens along with the Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden Open Burn organized the community rally to support the dialogue committee to find the safest method of disposal.

Lt. General Russell Honore spoke at the event in support of the group's efforts.

"Our Louisiana politicians have allowed our State, sportsman's paradise, to become a dumping ground for toxic waste. This EPA sanctioned open burn at Camp Minden would not be allowed in California or Massachusetts. Louisiana deserves no less," said Honore.

General Honore retired from the US Army in 2008 following 37 years of service. Louisiana residents may remember General Honore for his work as commander of the Joint Task Force for Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He formed an alliance of Louisiana organizations called The Green Army to combat a myriad of environmental challenges they feel the state is currently facing.

The General was joined on stage by a panel of experts, scientists, elected officials and community leaders.

Rally coordinator Chris Broussard told KSLA News 12 she is excited about the event. Children at the rally put on a demonstration, with picket signs as people walked in. "We couldn't think of a better message to give than to show who this is for and who we are fighting for, so we decided we would recruit some young activists," Broussard explained.

"There are many people involved in moving forward with safe disposal now and all eyes are on Louisiana and how we solve this," said Broussard.

At the meeting, Dr. Robert Flournoy emphasized the open burning of the propellant will release dangerous chemicals that could cause health defects. The top five he listed included: heart disease, skin lesions, reproductive disorders, jaundice, & liver dysfunction.

According to officials, a decision regarding the disposal of the M-6 propellant will be made on next Monday.

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Fort Smith Begins Process To Raise Sewer Rates

By Chad Hunter Times Record • chunter@swtimes.com

March 4, 2015 - 5:05am

Fort Smith leaders on Tuesday formally introduced an ordinance that outlines increasingly higher sewer rates over the next three years, then established a March 17 public hearing date required before approval.

According to city leaders, the additional revenue will help fund programs for maintenance and rehabilitation of the sewer system as required by a federal consent decree filed by the government in January.

"As much as I hate to say it, a big part of the problem we're in here is because of not keeping rates appropriately tied to costs over the last 30 years," Ward 3 Director Mike Lorenz said during Tuesday night's Board of Directors meeting. "As much as nobody wants rates to go up, I don't think that's an option. That's kind of why we're behind the eight-ball, because we've avoided rate increases for a period of time."

In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency placed Fort Smith under an administrative order to comply with the Clean Water Act by eliminating sewer overflows and discharges into the Arkansas River during heavy rains. In 2005, the EPA turned Fort Smith over to the U.S. Department of Justice for further enforcement action.

A 12-year consent decree, agreed to by the Board of Directors in December, was filed in federal court in January after years of negotiations. Under the proposed ordinance, sewer fees, which are included on water bills, would increase this year 65 percent, from an average of \$20 a month to \$33 a month. The average monthly bill would reach \$44 in 2016 and \$53 in 2017. With approval later this month, the first rate increase could go into effect May 1.

A public hearing date for the fee increases was unanimously set for the board's next business meeting at 6 p.m. March 17 at the Fort Smith Public Schools Service Center, 3205 Jenny Lind Road.

"Anyone who wishes to comment on the proposed rates can come and speak to the board at that time," said At-Large Director and Vice Mayor Kevin Settle, who was presiding Tuesday in the absence of an ill Mayor Sandy Sanders.

City Administrator Ray Gosack said the ordinance can be adopted at the same meeting.

"You can decide that at the March 17th meeting after the public hearing is concluded," he told the board. "If the board is ready to act that evening, the ordinance will be there."

At-Large Director Tracy Pennartz said she was not in favor of voting for the sewer fee increases so soon after the public hearing.

"My preference is not to vote on it immediately that night unless there's some rush to do so," she said. "I think there will be input that needs processed."

To pay for the pending sewer costs, Ward 4 Director George Catsavis asked fellow directors to consider a sales tax.

"Board, I would like to look at a penny sales tax in lieu of a sewer-rate increase for discussion at the next study session if possible," Catsavis said. "I'm telling you all straight up, I've got several calls from people that this is

going to put them under. You know they're going to be deciding between food and electric or whatever they can cut back. I just can't do this."

Ward 1 Director Keith Lau said personally, he believes the board should "stay the course."

"The consent decree is out there," Lau said. "The way I look at it is the rate we pay now for sewer is below the national average. So get us to the national average and then consider a sales tax."

Gosack estimated a 1-cent sales tax would bring in \$200 million over 10 years. The city estimates it will need to spend \$480 million, which includes \$360 million for capital projects, over the next 12 years to comply with the consent decree.

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